



For Immediate Release –Press Release 2013-2

**GROWER IS ORDERED TO EMPLOY WORKERS AFTER ALLEGED ASSAULT
ON UNION ORGANIZER AND FIRING UNION SUPPORTERS**

SACRAMENTO, CA (June 20, 2013) – A Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) requires Monterey County grower, George Amaral, to immediately employ three workers and stay at least 50 feet away from United Farm Workers (UFW) organizers following a reported assault on a UFW organizer and the firing of three workers who had come to the organizer's aid.

The TRO from Judge Lydia M. Villarreal of the Monterey County Superior Court comes at the request of the Agricultural Labor Relations Board (ALRB) which investigated after receiving a formal charge from the UFW regarding the June 14, 2013 incident. The order also allows the ALRB to speak with all of Amaral's workers to ensure they are not afraid to speak out or exercise their rights out of fear of violence or being fired.

Today, ALRB agents escorted the workers back to work, and spoke with more than 130 farmworkers at Amaral about their rights. "As a State agency, it is our job to make sure that farmworkers can exercise their rights, free of intimidation, coercion, or retaliation. The Court properly applied the strong protections afforded to workers under California's Agricultural Labor Relations Act. That means that the farmworkers' rights and jobs are protected," said Sylvia Torres-Guillén, the General Counsel of the ALRB. "We hope that this decision will send a message to all farmworkers, employers, and unions that the ALRB will take swift action to enforce the law and deter future violations."

Judge Villarreal's order is consistent with recent decisions in numerous courts that have allowed the ALRB to obtain immediate relief to enforce workers' rights when the ALRB determines that the extended administrative adjudication process will not adequately remedy the chilling effect that employer violations can have on the ability of farm workers to exercise their rights.

The ALRB General Counsel won the temporary restraining order using recently-amended provisions of the Act which allow the General Counsel to seek immediate relief to prevent discrimination and violations of workers' rights during the pendency of the administrative prosecution of a case. TROs prevent employers from intimidating and coercing workers in the exercise of their rights during the time it takes for workers' complaints to be resolved. A TRO may be issued where the General Counsel determines that she has reasonable cause to believe that the employer is committing or may have committed an unfair labor practice.

The ALRB was created in 1975 to ensure peace in the fields of California by guaranteeing justice for all agricultural workers and stability in agricultural labor relations. The ALRB seeks to achieve these ends by providing orderly processes for protecting, implementing, and enforcing the respective rights and responsibilities of employees, employers and labor organizations in their relations with each other. Information about the ALRB can be found at www.alrb.ca.gov.

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